Release of Forest land for Rehabilitation of affected persons of the Sardar Sarovar Project

669. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have recently rejected the request of the Government of Maharashtra for release of forest land for rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected persons of the Sardar Sarovar Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal of the Government of Maharashtra for diversion of additional 1500 hectares of forest land in Dhule District in Maharashtra for resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected persons of Sardar Sarovar Project, in Maharashtra, was considered by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests and was rejected under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as per recommendations of the Advisory Committee of that Ministry.

Compensation to Farmers affected by Narmada Sagar Project

670. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers who were deprived of their land along the main canal of Narmada Project have been agitating for the compensation at par;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHR P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) There is no such problem in the Narmada Sagar Project (Madhya Pradesh). However, the canal affected persons of the Sardar Sarovar Project have been agitating for grant of resettlement and rehabilitation packages at par with the project affected persons of the submergence area of the Sardar Sarovar Project.

(c) The Government of Gujarat have announced a scheme of assistance for small and marginal farmers affected by acquisition of land for construction of canals under the project.

पिछड़े वर्गों की सूची में नई जातियों का शामिल किया जाना

671. **श्री रामजीलाल** : क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मंडल आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिये किसी समिति का गठन किया है ; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार पिछड़े वर्गों की पुरानी सूची में नई जातियों को शामिल करने का विचार कर रही है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो नई पिछड़ी जातियों को शामिल करने के लिये क्या मानदंड अपनाया जा रहा है/जाएगा ; और

(घ) मंडल आयोग की इन सिफारिशों को कब तक लागू कर दिया जाएगा ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों की सूची में से सामाजिक रूप से उन्नत व्यक्तियों पिछड़े वर्गों ("सम्पन्न वर्ग") को अलग करने के लिए सामाजिक-आर्थिक मानदण्ड की सिफारिश करने हेतु 23 फरवरी, 1993 को एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया गया है।